

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 TRSE-00 /047 W
-----017123 081638Z /11

R 081451Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0854
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MUNICH 04288

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: BAVARIAN SPD CONVENTION:
- ACCENTUATING THE NEGATIVE

1. SUMMARY. SPD CONVENTION OPENING LANDTAG ELECTION
CAMPAIGNING IDENTIFIED FOLLOWING SHORT AND LONG TERM
GOALS: PREVENTING CSU FROM ATTAINING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY;
BRINGING ABOUT GRADUAL CHANGE IN VOTERS' PREFERENCES;
PROGRESSIVE ABSORPTION OF CITIZENS' INITIATIVES AND PROTEST
GROUPINGS; CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION WITHIN BAVARIAN PARLIA-
MENT DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS; AND FINAL TAKEOVER OF GOV-
ERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS IN THE LONG RUN. SPD CAMPAIGN WILL
CONCENTRATE ON BAVARIAN ISSUES, CONTESTING CSU'S SELF-
IMAGE AS "THE BAVARIAN PARTY." BULK OF RHETORIC, HOWEVER,
DEVOTED TO CASTIGATING CSU AND STRAUSS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WELCOMING ADDRESS TO SEPTEMBER 2 CONVENTION WHICH
MARKED OPENING OF SPD LAND ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ANTON
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HOCHLEITNER, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BAVARIAN SPD, SET
FORTH PARTY'S PRIMARY CONCERN: TO PREVENT CSU FROM
ATTAINING TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY, THUS "SAFEGUARDING
DEMOCRACY" AS WELL AS JUST SOCIAL ORDER IN BAVARIA.

3. DR. DIETER HAACK, FEDERAL MINISTER FOR AREA PLANNING,
TOWN PLANNING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING, FIRMLY CONTESTED

CSU'S CHARGE THAT BAVARIA BEING SHORT-CHANGED BY BONN IN DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. IN ONE-HOUR SPEECH ("WHAT BONN DOES FOR BAVARIA"), HE DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OF TRAFFIC, ROAD CONSTRUCTION, TOWN PLANNING AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES, EXPLAINING THAT IN NEARLY ALL SECTORS OF FEDERAL PROMOTION, BAVARIA RANKS SECOND BEHIND NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA.

4. IN TWO-HOUR ADDRESS ("BAVARIA BEFORE THE DECISION"), DR. HELMUT ROTHEMUND, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD BAVARIA, MADE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

- A. "POLICY OF OBSTRUCTION" WITHIN THE BUNDESTAG PURSUED BY CDU/CSU WILL INTENSIFY WITH FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AS BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT. RELATIONS BETWEEN BAVARIA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL THUS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE, WITH BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUING TO IGNORE LAWS RATIFIED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (E.G. LAW ON ABORTION/PARAGRAPH 218).
 - B. CSU PURSUING CULT OF "PERSONALITY" AND THIS, WITH REGARD TO MAN WHO BY REMARKS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS, HAS DISQUALIFIED HIMSELF AS CHAIRMAN OF A DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS WELL AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT. FANATICISM OF SCHUELER UNION AND JUNGE UNION CAUSES SERIOUS FEARS FOR FUTURE OF PARTY; ITS DEMOCRATIC SUBSTANCE IS ON THE VERGE OF VANISHING.
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"BAYERNKURIER" (WHICH HAD LABELED SPD "COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION" - SEE MUNICH 3692) IS TWIN SISTER OF "DEUTSCHE NATIONALZEITUNG" (ORGAN OF THE RIGHT EXTREMIST NPD)." INCREASING CONCENTRATION ON BECOMING NATIONAL PARTY IS DILUTING CSU'S CLAIM TO BE "BAVARIAN PARTY."

- C. SPD CHANCES FOR OCTOBER 15 ARE GOOD, FOR MANY VOTERS NOW SEE THAT BAVARIA IS ON WAY TO BECOMING TOTAL CSU STATE AND THAT IT IS TIME TO GIVE CSU A LESSON. FURTHERMORE, STRAUSS, WHO HAS NO INTEREST IN LAND POLICY AND FOR WHOM LANDTAG ELECTIONS ARE MERELY SUBSTITUTE BUNDESTAG ELECTION, IS "MOST NEGATIVE MISCASTING EVER" AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT.
- D. PARTICULARLY STRICT APPLICATION IN BAVARIA OF THE DECREE ON EXTREMISTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE MAKES CLEAR THAT CSU GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ABUSE THIS DECREE AS INSTRUMENT TO INTIMIDATE YOUNGER GENERATION. OFFICE FOR PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTION HAS NO PLACE IN THE SCHOOLS.
- E. "GREENS" ARE MIXTURE OF SERIOUS PEOPLE AND

"POLITICAL FAILURES;" THEY HAVE NO CHANCE TO OVERCOME
THE FIVE-PERCENT HURDLE. APPEAL OF GREENS TO YOUNG
PEOPLE IS REGRETTABLE; THEY DON'T KNOW THAT IN REALITY
THEY ONLY STRENGTHEN THE "BLACKS," WHO IN THE PAST HAVE
BEEN LEAST INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. SPD
IS POLITICAL HOME FOR ALL WHO WANT TO MAKE QUESTIONS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR ENERGY THE CENTER
OF THEIR POLITICAL WORK. LAW ON PROTECTION OF NATURE
IN BAVARIA WAS ONLY REALIZED AFTER 15-YEAR FIGHT AGAINST

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UNAPPRECIATIVE CSU.

- F. UNLIKE CSU, SPD WILL MAKE LAND POLICY CENTER OF
ITS CAMPAIGN. SPD ENTERS ELECTION CAMPAIGN UNITED;
QUARRELING SPD OF PAST YEARS NO LONGER EXISTS. ULTIMATE
SPD AIM IS TO TAKE OVER GOVERNMENT IN BAVARIA. LANDTAG
ELECTION OF 1978 SHOULD BE FIRST STEP ALONG ROAD TO
THAT LONG TERM GOAL.

5. COMMENT. AS WILL HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS FROM FOREGOING,
ACCENT OF MEETING WAS MUCH MORE ON PERCEIVED SINS OF CSU
AND STRAUSS THAN ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SPD AND ITS PLANS/
PROGRAMS. GIVEN PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF LIMITING SIZE OF CSU
MAJORITY, THIS MAY BE LOGICAL TACTIC, BUT IT HARDLY
SEEMS LIKELY TO FIRE UP SPD FAITHFUL, MUCH LESS TO WIN
MANY CONVERTS. FRISBIE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MUNICH04288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780366-0795
Format: TEL
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780988/aaaacvdq.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c63c1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1504404
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAVARIAN SPD CONVENTION: - ACCENTUATING THE NEGATIVE
TAGS: PINT, GE, SPD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c63c1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014